

# Inspiring Insights Newsletter



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## Spotlight

### A Spotlight on Alnerys Venegas!

We would like to spotlight Alnerys Venegas, a member of the Board of Directors and Chair of the Fundraising Committee. Alnerys originally completed her undergraduate degree in Business Administration and then a master's in the world of nonprofits and higher education. In her day-to-day life, she enjoys helping people and working in underserved communities. One thing Alnerys is most proud of is her blog "Reach Her Goals," which is a great platform for nonprofits career advice, support, and inspiration. She is most excited to further the growth of E.R.E. in hopes to provide a wider range of support.

"I want to live intentionally and ensure that what I am doing personally and professionally brings me joy and motivation to live my life to the fullest potential. Life is too short to not go after what you are passionate about."

-Alnerys Venegas

Learn more about Alnerys [here](#).



## E.R.E. Updates

We have finished one full year of working with students!

This year has been a time of **abundant growth** for E.R.E.

## Educate. Radiate. Elevate. 2022 MILESTONES

Trained and employed 14 tutors in IL & TX

Worked with 145 volunteers including 52 interns

Tutored 22 students in IL and TX!

E.R.E. is proud to announce that...

With just 4 months of tutoring, our students improved in **MATH** by up to the equivalent of 15 months of schooling, **LANGUAGE ARTS** by up to 19 months of schooling, and **READING** by up to 20 months of schooling.

Our students also experienced **reduced anxiety & depression**, as well as **improved focus & self-reliance**.

E.R.E. has raised over \$10,000 so far and hopes to raise another \$10,000 before the year is over.

E.R.E. thanks all of its generous donors!

Blog

Composed 32 Blogs

## TESTIMONIALS

"The tutor was great for [my daughter]! She told me a lot of great things about how nice she was and open-minded she was."  
- Parent of a 10th grader

"My first tutoring session went really well. [The tutor] was very encouraging and accepting so it was much better as an environment for me to learn."  
- 11th grade student

"I liked how the teaching was one-on-one and [the tutor] actually tried to teach me and have me do my best."  
- 10th grade student

Educate. Radiate. Elevate.

We are excited for even more success in the final month of 2022!

- Read our recent blogs for students, parents, and educators:
- Strengthen Communication Skills to Students
  - The Value of Writing
  - Benefits of Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)
  - Teaching Resilience to Kids

## E.R.E. Announcements

**Advisory Committee:** This advisory committee is made up of parents, students, educators, and leaders in the communities of Great Chicago, Chicago, and Houston. They provide a unique perspective of the students' needs, which E.R.E. highly values! To learn more, email the Executive Director.

**Fundraising Committee:** We are searching for new members to join our dedicated fundraising team! As a member of the Fundraising Committee, you will play a significant role in our early phases of development and help ensure our sustainability for many years to come. Join today!

**Volunteers:** We are looking for volunteer ambassadors, interns, tutors, and operational professionals. As a member of Educate, Radiate, Elevate, you will have the opportunity to collaborate with a varied group of people and make a real difference in students' lives!

**Donors:** We must work together to achieve our objectives of educating equitably, reducing poverty, and creating a better society. Your contribution will provide children from less fortunate backgrounds with the opportunity to succeed in school and beyond. Become a donor today!

## Recent News in Education

### School culture war campaigns fall flat in some tight races

Publication: The Washington Post  
Date: November 15, 2022

During the election season, many Republican candidates leaned hard into right-wing education issues. They used against "liberal new theory," denounced classroom gender diversity, and declared that teachers are telling their students to hate the United States. However, a number of those candidates who focused on these topics, such as their views on the Hills Act, lost in close races. While their stance on education may have been appealing to their right-wing, more moderate and independent voters were turned away. These results make many wonder how Republicans will tackle education in swing states during future elections.

What do you think will be the new strategy that right-wing candidates will use when campaigning about education in swing states?

### Texas voters elect first gay Black men, Muslims to Legislature, and other historic firsts

Publication: Dallas Morning News  
Date: Nov. 8, 2022

The most recent election led to some historic candidates being elected in Texas. Texans elected their first Muslim state legislator in the state's history, along with the first openly gay man elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Last night, Texans elected five openly gay Black lawmakers who all alongside the first ever gay Black lawmaker who was elected earlier this year in May.

Do you think these historic elections signify a change in the politics of Texas?

We will continue to keep you in the loop with updates about Educate, Radiate, Elevate, as well as about education, equity, community, news, and the like. If you know someone who is also passionate about helping youth, supporting educational equity, and funding community development, please forward them this newsletter so they can sign up!